

National Resource Centers and
Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellowships

MIDDLE EAST

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Abstracts
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Emory University
Middle Eastern Studies

Emory College seeks to become a National Undergraduate Resource Center for Middle East Studies. Our goals are 1. Strengthen Middle East language instruction at Emory by professional development for faculty and increased contact hours with students, and in the Southeast region of the United States through exchanges and workshops, 2. Increase its outreach to greater Atlanta primary and secondary schools, to regional universities, and to the greater Atlanta Middle East communities by making Emory a Middle East Extension center, modeled, in part, on the extension programs at Land Grant universities, 3. Enhance non-language instruction at Emory by providing sufficient MES faculty depth to teach both language and non-language courses, and 4. Increase Emory University library holdings to sustain a quality undergraduate teaching program in Middle Eastern languages, literature, history and religions. This combination of strong program goals and broad outreach match the goals of the National Resource Center program and will provide the greater Atlanta area and the Southeast region with needed support in Middle Eastern studies. In this application, we are building on existing strengths and a firm commitment from Emory University to support Middle Eastern Studies.

**Georgetown University
Middle East Studies Center**

The National Resource Center (NRC) on the Middle East at Georgetown University, based in the School of Foreign Service (SFS) and the College of Arts and Sciences (CAS), was established in August 1997, linking over 40 full-time faculty, visiting scholars and professionals, and students from CAS, SFS, and the Schools of Business and Law at Georgetown University. The NRC offers two Foreign Language and Area Studies fellowships for the academic year and two for summer study of Arabic, Hebrew, or Turkish.

The Center for Contemporary Arab Studies (CCAS) is the nucleus of the NRC, offering an interdisciplinary M.A. degree, regional certificates at the undergraduate and graduate levels, and joint M.A./Ph.D. degrees in cooperation with the Arabic, Government, and History departments. CCAS is involved in a variety of public activities, enabling it to reach an audience beyond the University, including the business, media, government, and general public: a publications program, a public affairs program, which sponsors an ongoing lecture series and an annual symposium, and a community outreach program for K-12-grade teachers.

Other components of the NRC include the Center for Muslim-Christian Understanding, which offers a certificate for undergraduates and a masters degree in Islam and Muslim-Christian Relations, as well as numerous activities during the year; the Department of Arabic Language, Literature, and Linguistics, which offers a full program of instruction in Arabic at all levels; the Division of Eastern Mediterranean Languages, which offers Hebrew and Turkish, the latter which is being expanded and improved by the NRC. The NRC also includes the Turkish Studies Program, launched in 1998, offering a variety of courses and opportunities for study abroad, and a Jewish Studies program initiative.

**Harvard University
Center for Middle Eastern Studies**

The Center for Middle Eastern Studies (CMES) was founded in 1954 to serve as the umbrella for Middle East Studies at Harvard University. With an annual budget of more than \$1.3 million, CMES is a powerful voice within the Harvard community for Middle East Studies. It uses its position to gain new faculty appointments and chairs, to recruit highly motivated students for its degree programs, to build undergraduate and graduate curricula of the highest quality, and to promote excellence in Middle East Studies at the University, in the New England area, and across the nation. From modest beginnings, CMES has grown to include over fifty faculty, more than one hundred graduate students in Middle East-related fields, an annual contingent of twenty visiting faculty and research scholars, and seventy faculty affiliates from colleges and universities around New England. Middle Eastern Studies flourish here due in large part to the exceptional Middle Eastern resources in the Harvard University Libraries and in the University art museums.

The Center's mission is to coordinate and sustain degree programs at both the undergraduate and graduate levels that focus on the study of Middle East languages and cultures. Building on traditional strengths at Harvard in Islamic Studies, CMES has turned its attention in recent years to the contemporary period, creating multi-level modern language programs and integrating them with new and existing capabilities in historical and cultural studies and the social sciences. Over the next three years, the thrust will be toward coordinating more closely with other area studies centers and professional schools at Harvard to strengthen the international perspective and to develop new modes of teaching and research that accurately reflect current concerns of the peoples of the region.

CMES serves as a magnet for Middle Eastern scholars across the University, drawing them in through topical programs, a judicious use of resources, and an efficient, service-oriented staff. It augments its teaching strength by sponsoring public lectures and seminars such as the CFIA/CMES Middle East Seminar that serves as a meeting point for leading figures in the Middle East peace process. It houses politically sensitive research projects, such as Kanan Makiya's Iraq Documentation Project, which has exposed the extent to which genocide has been used as an instrument of rule under Saddam Hussein. It supports and administers publications such as the CMES monograph series and the Harvard Middle East and Islamic Review, and it helps to ensure coverage of important fields among the more than 300 Middle East-related courses listed in the Harvard catalogue. The Center also organizes outreach activities to schools, other universities and to the local Cambridge and Boston communities through its Teaching Resource Center.

Openness and the encouragement of academic endeavors that contribute to a well-balanced Middle East area studies curriculum characterize its intellectual atmosphere. Support is given to projects whose point of convergence is excellence in scholarly content and relevance to current problems in the region. Another strength of the Center is its diversity; through its constituent student and faculty committees and its sponsorship of creative programming, CMES validates a broad range of activities and provides them with a physical and intellectual home. Self-improvement is assured through internal and external mechanisms that evaluate performance, so that CMES will continue to measure up to the highest academic standards and serve as a model for the rest of the field. Graduates of CMES programs teach at major universities in the United States and abroad and hold leadership positions in government, business, the arts, and the media, providing substantial evidence of the quality and professionalism of their training.

**Ohio State University
Middle East Studies Center**

This application requests funds for the establishment of an Undergraduate Title VI National Resource Center in Middle East Studies and stipends for Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellowships. Funds requested in the proposal will be used in compliance with federal guidelines to meet the USDE priorities as authorized under Title VI of the Higher Education Act of 1965 as amended. Since its founding in 1981 as a NRC (authorized in 1988, 1991, 1994, and 1997), the Undergraduate Middle East Studies Center has developed into an integral and dynamic component of The Ohio State University's program of international activities. On the University's main campus, 43 faculty members (34 tenured; 9 tenure-line) are engaged in teaching, research and service related to the Middle East.

The Middle East Instructional program has particular strengths in the following subjects: Anthropology; Ancient Semitic Languages; Arabic, Hebrew, Persian and Turkish Language, Literature and Culture; Arabic and Hebrew Linguistics; Comparative Literature; History (The Ancient Middle East, Islam, Eastern Christianity, Judaism, Ottoman and Persian); International/Middle East Relations; Islamic Art and Architecture; Middle Eastern Folklore; and Jewish and Islamic Philosophy. Course instruction in these different topics is offered in 154 language and literature courses and 158 area studies courses. In total, 312 courses are offered under 29 disciplinary rubrics. B.A.s, M.A.s and Ph.D.s are awarded through a number of departments. These educational and research programs are supported by the Middle East Studies Library (150,000 volumes; 791 journals and newspapers, 278 in the vernaculars), and by the well-qualified staff of the Middle East Studies Center. The Center also sponsors a number of outreach activities that include an annual summer two-week teacher training workshop on the Middle East, the annual Eastern Summer Consortium in Persian and Turkish and interactive instructional courseware on the Middle East in addition to an active public lecture and seminar series.

The major objectives of this proposal include: developing teacher training and outreach programs; strengthening non-language area studies, including the professional schools; improving performance-based Middle Eastern language instruction; increasing library acquisitions; establishing faculty and research collaboration and student exchange programs with Middle Eastern universities; utilizing emerging technologies for enhancing the dissemination of knowledge and learning about the Middle East; and innovative procedures to evaluate the success of the Center's programs.

Princeton University Near Eastern Studies

Princeton University has been a leader in teaching and research in Near Eastern Studies (NES) for the past six decades. Its Program in NES, which is located in the Department of NES, is in its fifty-fifth year. The Chair of the Department serves concurrently as the Director of the Program, a fact that forges a wide variety of linkages throughout the university, allowing maximization of staff and resources. Throughout the course of the past twenty years, the program, together with the Center for Near Eastern Studies at New York University, has been designated as a Joint National Resource Center (NRC). Working closely together the two institutions engage in a wide variety of joint outreach activities as well as sponsor a program whereby students from one institution are urged to take advantage of the strengths of the other by enjoying free use of the sister school's facilities and course offerings.

Throughout its history, Princeton's NES-related faculty has consistently maintained its international reputation. Students who have studied with them are today to be found in the forefront of all the major NES programs in this country and abroad (e.g., four members of the University of Chicago's NES faculty are Princeton PhD.'s). Currently the Princeton faculty includes 25 members as well as five visitors with teaching and research interests in the Near East. Annually, they offer over 100 courses covering all aspects of Near Eastern anthropology, art history, languages, literatures, history, religion, and politics. A full course of instruction is offered in Arabic, Hebrew, Persian, and Turkish. Princeton offers the B.A., M.A., and Ph.D. degrees, and a Certificate in NES (for undergraduates), all of which are designed to provide students a firm grounding in an academic discipline together with extensive area and language competence.

Princeton's Near East Library holdings remain preeminent in the nation. With over 232,800 volumes in its Near Eastern languages collection, together with 270,000 titles relating to the area in western languages, and 12,000 Islamic manuscripts, these collections form the core of NES teaching and research at the university, and support for the maintenance and expansion of these holdings remains one of the foremost priorities of this NRC. The provision of ready access to its NES related collections is a key element of our policy which is reflected in the large number of scholars who travel from within the U.S. and abroad to avail themselves of this unparalleled resource each year.

NES' activities are closely coordinated with Princeton's Woodrow Wilson School for Public and International Affairs, the Institute for the Transregional Study of the Contemporary Middle East, North Africa, and Central Asia, and other interdisciplinary centers. Together we host an array of conferences, workshops and seminars, all of which are open to the public as part of our outreach program. The NES Program, often in conjunction with our sister center, NYU, organizes a variety of educational and corporate outreach events each year that bring together the worlds of secondary education, academe, government and business.

University of Arizona
Center for Middle Eastern Studies

The University of Arizona (UA) is one of the largest educational institutions in the region with a student body of 35,000 and faculty and staff numbering some 12,780. The UA offers 120 undergraduate programs, 121 Master's, 91 Doctoral, 4 specialist, and three professional degrees in 15 colleges and 8 schools. Nationally, it is ranked 16th in expenditures on research and 13th among public universities. The most recent NSF rankings placed UA among the top ten universities integrating research and teaching. UA officially describes itself as a "student-centered research university," reflecting its commitment to students, particularly undergraduates.

The Center for Middle Eastern Studies (CMES) was created in 1975 with Federal and University support and has grown to include 70 members, 66 of whom are faculty. The Center coordinates degrees in Middle Eastern languages and literatures and in interdisciplinary programs in the social sciences, humanities, and technical and applied fields. Arizona offers a full complement of courses in traditional Middle Eastern Studies. It has seven faculty in the field of history alone. UA also offers less common courses in Women's Studies, Architecture, Arid Lands Studies, Management and Information Systems, and Hydrology. It provides instruction in classical and spoken Arabic, Hebrew, Persian and Turkish, using performance-based methods enhanced by computer-assisted instruction. It also cooperates with other area studies programs at UA and Arizona State University in developing courses with a cross-regional focus.

Graduate students pursuing language study are eligible to apply for Foreign Language and Areas Studies (FLAS) grants in the four languages. The local community provides two undergraduate fellowships for language study. The presence of many students from the Middle East contributes to a cosmopolitan atmosphere on campus. Overseas study and travel support for students is available through the Center for Global Student Programs. UA has formal links to universities and programs in Egypt, Israel, Morocco, Syria, Turkey, the UAE, and Yemen.

Since 1981, UA has served as the permanent Secretariat of the Middle East Studies Association (MESA), the premier organization for scholars of the region. A vital link for scholars world-wide, MESA is a major vehicle for promotion of the field and understanding of the region. UA is also the institutional home of the International Studies Association, the primary organization for study of international relations and foreign affairs; the American Institute for Magrib Studies; and the new NSF-funded Science and Technology Center on Semi-Arid Regions.

CMES regularly organizes scholarly conferences and workshops, many of which result in major publications. The Center hosts post-and/or pre-doctoral fellows from the Middle East every year and is active in bringing Middle Eastern studies to a larger audience. We offer for-credit workshops for K-12 educators and a cultural outreach program that reaches thousands of people annually. The Center encourages student participation in the design and organization of outreach projects, including photography exhibits, film festivals, and programs for K-12 teachers. CMES also organizes workshops for media, business, and federal, state, and local agencies.

CMES promotes the participation of under-represented groups and encourages cross-cultural studies through alliances with Native American Studies, Africana Studies, and Women's Studies. The Center also works with "New Start," a University mentoring program, and "Talent Search," a state-funded program; both are designed to attract minority, lower-income, and first-generation students to higher education. The Center regularly collaborates with the Southwest Institution for Research on Women in linking area studies with women's studies. CMES works closely with the Center for Disability Related Resources to accommodate persons with disabilities.

University of California at Berkeley
Center for Middle Eastern Studies

The Center for Middle Eastern Studies of the University of California at Berkeley, founded in 1963, is a constituent unit of International and Area Studies. CMES coordinates the Middle East-related activities of the University by focusing resources for the study of the Middle East to serve the needs of faculty, students and the general public.

Our 18 core Middle East faculty, 10 part specialist faculty, 14 related faculty, 5 active emeritus professors, 6 lecturers, 6 academic staff, 25 visiting faculty and 6 graduate student instructors offer 332 language and area courses in 23 departments and 4 professional schools. Middle East-related course enrollments in 1998-99 totaled 2,573 and 467 undergraduate and graduate students, respectively. There are 169 graduate and 174 undergraduate UCB students currently specializing in the Middle East. In 1998-99 UCB awarded 99 BA, 11 MA, and 20 Ph.D. degrees to Middle-East specialist students.

Within the University: CMES promotes Middle East related course offerings; trains specialists and generalists; enhances language instruction; awards grants for travel and research; offers an interdisciplinary lecture series; supplements Library acquisitions and staff resources; coordinates an undergraduate major and recently introduced a minor in MES; promotes study abroad; offers a newsletter, listserv, bulletins and a popular website; conducts seminars for postdoctoral scholars; and participates in the Western Consortium for summer intensive language classes and language teacher workshops.

In community outreach: CMES works with the outreach office of the University to provide K-12 teacher workshops, innovative curricula, free loan of curriculum materials, on-line services and a speakers' bureau. CMES has referral services for news media, organizes periodic seminars for the business community, and conducts a seminar for advanced Middle East scholars in Northern California. CMES serves the public with free public lectures, films and exhibits.

UCB's Library ranks fourth among university libraries, has over 170,000 books and 1,500 periodicals in Middle Eastern languages and is housed in a recently completed state-of-the-art underground facility which also includes abundant on-line and non-print resources.

The Center works closely with other units of UCB to promote interdisciplinary, cross-regional and comparative scholarship, integrating Middle East case material into the curricula of various departments. The University commitment to ME area study includes providing substantial direct support to faculty, students, CMES, the library, The Berkeley Language Center, and the outreach office. The University has hired four new Middle East specialist faculty in the past three years with a fifth position currently being recruited.

In 1998-99 CMES conducted international conferences at UCB on "Muslims in Europe" and in Cairo on "manufacturing Heritage and Consuming Tradition;" in 1999-2000 at UCB CMES is sponsoring international conferences on "The Family in the Middle East" and "Cairo in the 19th Century."

CMES has been recently successful in fundraising relating to the establishment of well-endowed programs in Arab and Islamic Studies. For the coming 3-year cycle, CMES plans an approach which will integrate our area and professional school regular and visiting faculty, lectures and conferences through three annual themes: "Arab Identity" in 2000-20001, "Middle East regional Development" in 2001-2002 and "The Middle East in Transnational Perspective" in 2002-2003.

University of California, Los Angeles
G. E. Von Grunebaum Center for Near Eastern Studies

Description: Situated in metropolitan Los Angeles, CNES serves as the nexus of Middle East Studies in Southern California. Established in 1957 as an interdisciplinary program for Middle East and Islamic Studies, the Center's prominent physical and virtual presence on campus underscores the significant impact it has made on the discipline for a generation, as measured by the nearly 600 graduate alumni of Middle East Studies; the outstanding number of publications by distinguished faculty; the broad participation of students in academic and professional activities; and the dedication of the CNES staff to the efficient operations of the Center and maximum utility and dissemination of resources.

Mission: CNES is empowered by the University of California to expand and promote knowledge and expertise on a vital region of the globe, and to meet a national need by training Middle East area specialists for the academic, public and government sectors. By engaging a critical mass of experts on campus and in Southern California, the Center combines scholarly content and innovative methods and technologies in pursuit of excellence in teaching, research and outreach.

Degree Programs

- BA in Near Eastern Studies and MA and Ph.D. in Islamic Studies sponsored by CNES.
- Opportunities for specialization in Middle East Studies are available to undergraduate and graduate students in 18 majors and 21 separate degree programs.

Languages and Disciplines

- 16 Middle Eastern languages are taught, 5 incorporate the 4 proficiency skills areas.
- 410 Middle East-related courses are offered in 30 academic departments and professional schools.

Faculty

- 28 core and 6 supporting faculty in the Near Eastern languages department.
- 38 core and 10 supportive Middle East faculty in non-language departments and professional schools.
- Endowed positions in Islamic, Jewish, and Armenian Studies.

Enhancement Activities

- **Publication Services:** 108 works published to date under the auspices of CNES. The Center supports five active series, including *Middle Eastern Identities* and the graduate student journal *JUSUR*.
- **Organized Research:** Activities include comparative studies of Muslim religiosity; Middle Eastern migration in international perspective; community health problems in the Middle East.
- **New Media:** State-of-the-art website serves 20,000 users annually. Other New Media initiatives entail developing and marketing interactive computer-based modules for Turkish and other Middle Eastern languages.
- **Academic Gatherings:** Include international conference and award in Islamic Studies; national colloquium on *Medieval Cairo for a Modern World*; regional workshops on select issues of common interest; graduate student forum; and approximately 40 lectures annually, including presentations by resident CNES fellows.

Library

- Largest holdings on the West Coast – 500,000 volumes dealing comprehensively with the Middle East, North Africa, Anatolia and Central Asia. Second largest collection of rare books and manuscripts in the US.
- Online access through the California Digital Library makes the Middle East collection a national treasure.
- 6 full-time bibliographers and cataloguers and 3 supportive staff attend to the collection and its users.

Outreach

- Intensive training programs for pre-collegiate and community college instructors; school site training to promote interdisciplinary team teaching; Certificate program for mentor teachers.
- Special topic seminars and websites specially tailored to business and media interests.
- Extensive cultural program featuring film festivals, music concerts, dance performances, museum exhibitions, and poetry recitals and lectures open to the general public.

**University of California, Santa Barbara
Center for Middle East Studies**

The Center for Middle East Studies (CMES) at the University of California, Santa Barbara (UCSB), is a new campus-based institution that has emerged from the remarkable expansion of Middle Eastern Studies at UCSB over the past decade. The Center has been designed to enhance programming at all levels and to help coordinate the activities of the undergraduate major in Islamic & Near Eastern Studies (INES), several undergraduate Middle East concentrations within the Global & International Studies degree programs, over 50 graduate students in the nine departments and programs that are affiliated with INES, as well as a core faculty of 23 who work primarily in Middle Eastern Studies and 22 faculty members with lesser teaching and/or research interests in the Middle East. The Center will initiate and expand collaborative ventures with UCSB's professional schools in Education, Engineering, and Environmental Studies, help coordinate UCSB's outreach activities in Middle East Studies, and institute an active program of teacher training with a special focus on Central California, a region where much of California's explosive growth is currently taking place.

In the area of Middle East Studies (including the study of Islam in South Asia), UCSB currently offers language instruction in Arabic, Hebrew, Hindi, Persian, and Punjabi as well as a range of ancient Near Eastern languages including Aramaic, Coptic, Syriac, and Ugaritic. UCSB also maintains a strong program in South Asian languages with multi-level offerings in Sanskrit, Pali, and Tibetan. Middle Eastern Studies at UCSB maintains a commitment to traditionally core disciplines such as History, Religious Studies, and Political Science, but has also developed distinctive strengths in the cultural study of the Middle East such as Ethnomusicology, Islamic Art & Architecture, and Folklore. Environmental Studies is also emerging as an area of growing significance for Middle Eastern studies at UCSB at both the undergraduate and graduate levels. An additional distinctive strength is the growing number of faculty and graduate students who are actively involved in the comparative study of both the Middle East and South Asia.

The UCSB library is the third largest in the University of California system and provides easy access not only to the campus collection, but also to the extraordinary holdings of the entire UC system, which includes over 290,000 volumes in Middle Eastern languages and over 500,000 titles in Western languages on the Middle East.

Ongoing outreach activities in Middle Eastern Studies at UCSB include public conferences, faculty lectures for the general public (both on and off campus), contacts with the media, performances at public schools by the UCSB Middle East Ensemble, graduate students teaching in the public schools on UCSB ArtBridges grants, and outreach presentations by UCSB undergraduates in the public schools. NRC funding will initiate our first teacher-training programs focused on the Middle East.

**University of Chicago
Center for Middle Eastern Studies**

Since its establishment in 1965, the mandate of the Center for Middle Eastern Studies has been to coordinate, stimulate, and encourage academic, extracurricular, and outreach activities relating to the study of North Africa, Western Asia, Central Asia, and the Islamic World..

In fulfillment of this mission, the Center funds and administers a wide variety of programs and projects. At the undergraduate level, CMES ensures the availability of elementary and intermediate language courses and seeks to enhance their quality. CMES also administers one of the finest summer intensive Arabic language programs in the nation. In addition, CMES has taken the lead in helping to develop new non-language courses in the College. The CMES interdisciplinary MA program has grown steadily over the years and has established formal links with two professional school degree programs. Graduates of the doctoral programs in Middle Eastern studies at Chicago continue to achieve recognition nationally and to find placement in the finest institutions of higher learning in the United States and abroad. The Center coordinates and sponsors a lecture series, several film series, the Middle East 2000 current events forum and the Middle East History and Theory Workshop and Conference—both student-organized and administered—and the Middle East in the Middle West for educators at other institutions in the region.

Virtually all the disciplines in the humanities and social sciences are represented in Middle East programs of study. 10 languages of the ancient Middle East are taught and 12 of the classical and modern periods. Most of the distinguished faculty hold appointments in one or more departments or schools. The interdisciplinary, comparative, and innovative approaches to knowledge and learning pioneered at Chicago profoundly inform the language and area studies programs at the University. This feature of the curriculum has been significantly strengthened by the creation of the Foreign Language and Area Studies Council under the aegis of the Center for International Studies. Research in all spheres is powerfully supported by one of the finest library collections in North America.

Long a national model, the CMES public education program is introducing satellite technology and the Internet to provide materials and services to educators, schools, community groups and cultural institutions, healthcare providers, businesses, and the media. To achieve this objective of service to the community most efficiently, we seek partnerships with like-minded organizations whose aims are consistent with our own goals of enhancing Americans' understanding of the nation's global connections and its multicultural society through education and training on the Middle East and the Islamic World.

For 2000-2001, the Center requests direct support for salaries (\$117,675), for Center operations including faculty training workshops and library materials acquisitions (\$31,776), for program enhancement and development (\$11,900), for outreach activities including absolute priority K-12 and post-secondary teacher training workshops (\$12,575) and for a conference on Middle Eastern identities (\$2,000) totaling \$175,926.

University of Michigan
Center for Middle Eastern & North African Studies

The Center for Middle Eastern and North African Studies of the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor hereby submits its proposal to the US Department of Education for a grant for Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellowships. The Center offers programs of study in the languages, cultures, history, geography, law, politics and other aspects of the Middle East and North Africa.

The Center is known nationally for its focus on language instruction and outreach programs and its excellence in those areas. Full programs of instruction are provided in Arabic, Armenian, modern Hebrew, Persian and Turkish. The University Library, ranked fourth or fifth nationally for its Middle Eastern and North African holdings, provides a complete array of services and resources to students and researchers, as do state-of-the-art teaching facilities such as the Language Resource Center. There is an unusually full range of courses in Middle Eastern history and Islamic studies. Center faculty, whose numbers have increased significantly, constitute a dynamic and cohesive group representing most of the major disciplines in the social sciences and humanities, as well as several professional schools.

For students wishing to specialize on the Middle East area while undertaking BA, MA or Ph.D. work in Anthropology, Comparative Literature, History, History of Art, Linguistics, Near Eastern Studies, Political Science and Sociology, the Center coordinates a full area and language training program. The Center offers students its own interdisciplinary Bachelor of Arts (BA) and Master of Arts (MA) programs and joint MA programs with three professional schools. These degrees provide broad modern language and area training across the disciplines.

The Center requests funding from the Department of Education, not only to maintain and increase its current strengths in language instruction, outreach and other areas, but also to build new strategic links with units such as Economics. Through a new initiative of the International Institute, the Center will create alliances with professional schools, inviting Visiting Professors to reside for a year in Ann Arbor. In geographical terms, the Center is reaching out at both edges, by creating new courses and programs regarding the Mediterranean basin in collaboration with the Center for European Studies, and with a sequence of new courses on issues confronting Central Eurasia in collaboration with the Center for Russian and East European Studies.

The Center's mission is to foster understanding of the Middle East and North Africa among students and the community through a comprehensive, systematic curriculum and through a rich variety of programs and initiatives, among which outreach is especially important; and to promote work, especially collaborative research, aiming toward an improved understanding of Middle Eastern and North African societies in all their complexity, and of the role of those societies in processes which now affect the entire world.

University of Pennsylvania Middle East Center

The Middle East Center was founded in 1965 to bring the University of Pennsylvania's long-established programs in ancient and medieval languages and civilizations together with work on modern Middle East States and societies. The mid-1990s marks the beginning of a new round of investment in the contemporary world affairs components of the program in social science and comparative analysis, business and development studies, human rights, security, and conflict resolution.

The classroom remains the primary locus for building and sustaining an innovative and comprehensive program of teaching, research and study. Last year, over 2100 students enrolled in 107 Middle East courses in 25 departments of the School of Arts and Sciences, 4 professional schools, and the College of General Studies, which makes Penn's resources available to full-time working professionals and life-long learners. We have 30 core faculty or full-time area specialists, 10 part-specialist professors, 6 faculty who teach Middle East-related courses, and 23 lecturers. Core faculty teach across the curriculum and instructional levels, from first year seminars and gateway courses to advanced research seminars and tutorials. This multilevel curriculum reflects the Center's multiple missions: to educate world citizens, to train the next generation of teachers, writers, analysts, and other professionals, and to pursue and disseminate ideas of true importance.

Work outside the classroom reflects these same objectives. Last year, 50 local area professionals attended teacher workshops. We hosted over 1000 members of the campus, Philadelphia, and Delaware Valley communities in 30 seminars, lectures and public performances. Graduate students and faculty from 8 surrounding colleges and universities participate in our ongoing advanced research workshops and colloquia. The combined libraries' holdings in the Middle East, comprising some 260 thousand volumes, is a resource for students and scholars across Eastern Pennsylvania and beyond, and we facilitate their use through our ongoing research affiliates program.

The work of the Center and its faculty also extends beyond the boundaries of the Penn campus. Last year the Center's outreach coordinator made a dozen appearances in social studies classes, museums and public film series, while serving as an officer in the Middle East Outreach Council. She is now coordinating a distant learning program in Arabic language instruction in West Philadelphia city schools. The Center has strong ties to local institutions, and Penn's Middle East faculty are similarly linked with the world beyond the campus. They are consultants and advisors to governments, political parties, and non-governmental organizations, and are officers in the overseas research centers and professional associations that comprise Middle East studies internationally.

In this proposal we outline an agenda for the Center in the coming years, which extends and deepens these commitments, as part of an overarching project to lead in the restructuring of area studies models, knowledge and training to meet the challenges of the next century. We are undertaking a new research-oriented undergraduate curriculum initiative that will serve as a model for other Middle East NRCs, and we are bringing enhanced teaching and pedagogy training into programs for research faculty and advanced graduate students rather than just for language instructors and teaching assistants.

**University of Texas
Center for Middle Eastern Studies**

Founded in 1960, the Center for Middle Eastern Studies at the University of Texas (UT) coordinates one of the largest, most comprehensive Middle East programs in the U.S. Teaching and research are carried out by nearly 100 scholars with appointments in 22 departments. During 1999-2000 they offered 182 courses representing every major field in the social sciences and humanities. Enrollments in these courses totaled 6,500 students, with 5,803 undergraduates and 697 graduate students enrolled.

With UT support and 40 years of federal funding, the Center has promoted high-quality training in a number of ways. It has helped build a broad-based curriculum cutting across 20 disciplines and professional fields; assisted in developing state-of-the-art instruction in the languages of the region; worked with professional schools to offer joint-degree programs; collaborated with various departments and centers to organize lectures and conferences to contribute to scholarship on the region; cooperated with the main library to create one of the foremost research and teaching collections on the Middle East in the United States; and forged linkages with institutions in the Middle East that have given students a variety of opportunities for study and research abroad. Most recently, in summer 1999, the Center hosted the Western Consortium's language program, offering intensive courses equivalent to a full year of language in the four Middle Eastern languages (3 years in Arabic, 2 in Hebrew, 2 in Persian, and 1 in Turkish).

Through its educational and cultural outreach activities, the Center has helped promote better understanding of the Middle East among North Americans. In 1999-2000 nearly 40,000 people benefited from the Center's teacher training workshops, teaching materials and newsletters, speakers bureau, and cultural events. Seven years after its pioneering launch of the Middle Eastern Network Information Center (UT-MENIC) on the Internet, the service remains the foremost on-line directory for Middle Eastern Studies. The site, which receives over two million electronic visits a year from users all over the world, provides linkages to hundreds of databases using an easily navigable menu organized by country and subject. The Center's publications is among the most prestigious in the field. It has issued 54 books bringing English readers worldwide a body of original scholarship and translations of literary works by authors from the Middle East.

University of Utah Middle East Center

The University of Utah's Middle East Center continues to be one of the leading programs for the interdisciplinary study of the Middle East region. The Center is proud of the achievements of its faculty members and its graduate students, its widely recognized library collection, its deep outreach ties with the Utah community, and its growing links with educational institutions in the Middle East and other organizations interested in studying that region.

The Center will endeavor to expand its many Middle East- related course offerings, cooperate with other Departments on campus in order to provide the most comprehensive coverage possible of Middle Eastern societies and the challenges they face. It will encourage research-related travel, workshops and conferences, as well as play an active role in the University Consortium for the intensive Middle East language teaching that has met here at our University this summer. The Center will strive to expand its role in training school teachers, providing teaching material and act as a resource base for the business community and mass media with regard to their interests in Middle Eastern developments.

Over the past few years, the quality of our graduate and undergraduate programs has been improved further through raising standards of admission. The visibility of our entire Middle East program has been increased due to an active program of lectures and workshops. Our faculty members have participated at numerous international conferences in locations at the Middle East, Europe and the United States. The Center looks forward to building on its solid traditions, its many points of strengths, and to expand in new interesting and promising directions.

University of Washington Middle East Center

The University of Washington (UW), the premier research institution in the Pacific Northwest, has offered Middle East language and culture courses for over ninety years. In 1965 the Department of Near Eastern Studies was established, and from 1974 to the present, the University has maintained and strengthened its Title VI Middle East National Resource Center. Geographically, the Center serves a vast area of the US that has little access to Middle East programming. In addition to the state of Washington, the Center's expertise is disseminated to Alaska, Idaho, Oregon, Montana, and the upper Midwest states of North and South Dakota.

The mission of the UW Middle East Center is to (1) provide educational opportunities for undergraduate and graduate students interested in the Middle East at the UW, and at corresponding institutions linked to the Center by new technologies; (2) to foster an interest in the modern Middle East at the k-12 levels; (3) to increase an understanding and appreciation of the Middle East in the nation, and particularly to those in the Northwest and upper Midwest; (4) to train US citizens as Middle East specialists for work in the private and public sector.

The UW is unique in the Pacific Northwest, and rare in the nation, for the array of Middle East languages it offers. The University supports tenure-track positions in Arabic, Turkish, Persian, and Hebrew, as well as Tajik, Kirghiz, Kazhak, and Uzbek. Middle East coursework ranges across the departments of Anthropology, Art History, Communications, Comparative Religion, Economics, English, Geography, History, International Studies, Jewish Studies, Linguistics, Music, Near East Languages and Civilization, Political Science, and Womens Studies. Degree programs devoted to the Middle East and drawing on a 46-member faculty of Middle East specialists are as follows: (1) bachelors and masters in the Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilization; (2) masters in the Jackson School of International Studies; (3) doctorates in the Near/Middle East Interdisciplinary Program administered by the Graduate School; and (4) masters and doctorates focused on the Middle East in any of the departments offering Middle East courses.

Over the last two years, the Middle East programs at the UW have moved swiftly into new ventures as technology transforms teaching. The Middle East Center now cooperates with Montana State University in an innovative Arabic language distance learning program, beaming live, interactive Arabic language instruction to seven smaller colleges and universities in the Northwest and upper Midwest. The UW has awarded \$230,000 to the Department of Near Eastern Languages to encourage the design and development of new language teaching technology. Moreover, the Middle East program has strengthened its interdisciplinary instruction by creating a new Comparative Islamic track for undergraduates within the Jackson School of International Studies (JSIS) at the UW.

The UW library is ranked consistently as one of the top 15 North American research libraries; and as one of the top five libraries nationally in the number of items lent to other institutions. The library's Near East Section is one of the larger comprehensive collections in Middle East languages in the United States and is a leader in developing computer tools to enable the creation of electronic databases for Middle Eastern language material.

Outreach through the Center, and in cooperation with other centers at JSIS, provides a wide range of services and events to K-12 and post-secondary, business, media, and the general public. New directions for the Center include initiating a partnership with the Seattle Public Schools to teach Arabic at the elementary level and programming directed at regional justice and social welfare providers who now interact regularly with immigrants from the Middle East.